

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

declared unhesitatingly for Alexander. He had already written again to the fathers of the Grande Chartreuse, declaring that the Council was lawful and canonical, that the cardinals were inspired by the Holy Ghost in summoning it, and whoever they elected Pope would undoubtedly be the true vicar of Christ.¹ He now went in person to the general chapter of the Carthusians of both obediences, held at the Grande Chartreuse in the following year, 1410, where the whole order solemnly recognized Alexander as Pope; and there, in the presence of the assembled fathers, he resigned his generalship. Joniface Ferrer, who (like his brother St. Vincent) still adhered to Benedict, did not attend the chapter, but tendered his resignation by letter.

The Carthusians being thus reunited by his efforts, Stefano returned to his beloved Siena, as once more prior of Pontignano. Cristofano Guidini and the other surviving members of Catherine's fellowship received him with joy. Ser Cristofano had lost his wife and six children in the pestilence of 1390, the one surviving daughter, Nadda, having become a nun. He had since devoted his whole life to the service of the poor and the infirm in the hospitals, and, before the end of this year, 1410, he breathed his last in Stefano's arms. In the following year, Stefano was again transferred from Siena, and made prior of the Certosa of Pavia. At Siena, he had doubtless seen and heard a young Franciscan friar, born in the year of Catherine's death, whom we now call San Bernardino; we find him a little later, in a letter written to Fra Angelo Salvetti from Pavia, vividly impressing the great joy with which he has heard of the abundant fruit that Fra Bernardino Albizzeschi is producing in the Church of God.²

From Pavia, Stefano witnessed the pontificate of Alexander's successor, the infamous Baldassare Cossa, John XXIII, which must have caused much searching of heart among the "servants of God" who had so gladly welcomed the result of the Council.

¹ Earth. Senensis, *op. cit.*, Lib. III. cap. 8.

² *Ibid.*, Lib. IV. cap. 9.